

## **PALMER BARGE LINE SUPERFUND SITE PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS**

**EPA Region 6  
EPA ID# TXD068104561  
Congressional District 9  
Jefferson County  
Updated: January 16, 2003**



### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

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**Location:** Palmer Barge is located 4.5 miles NE of the city of Port Arthur in Jefferson County, Texas. The site is located on Old Yacht Club Road on Pleasure Islet. The site is 0.5 miles southwest of the point where the Neches River enters the Sabine-Neches Canal. The southern boundary of the site is directly adjacent to the State Marine (TXD099801102) Superfund Site.

**Population:** Approximately 60,953 people reside in Port Arthur. Other nearby areas include Groves, Nederland, and Port Neches.

**Setting:** The land use surrounding the site is industrial. Sabine Lake is a large commercial and recreational fishery yielding blue crabs, trout, redfish and drum.

### **WASTES AND VOLUMES**

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Analytical data collected during a 1999 Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) indicated the presence of both organic and inorganic contaminants in soil samples collected from locations surrounding the numerous above ground storage tanks at the site. There were also hazardous constituents found in the shallow near shore sediments of Sabine Lake.

Semi-volatile organic contaminants of concern include acenaphthylene, anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, chrysene and fluoranthene. There were also numerous pesticides and PCB (Aroclor 1254) detected in the onsite soil samples. Elevated levels of inorganic contaminants found included chromium, copper, lead, and zinc.

A more thorough determination of the nature and extent of the contamination present at the site will be possible following the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS is tentatively scheduled to begin in February 2003.

## NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

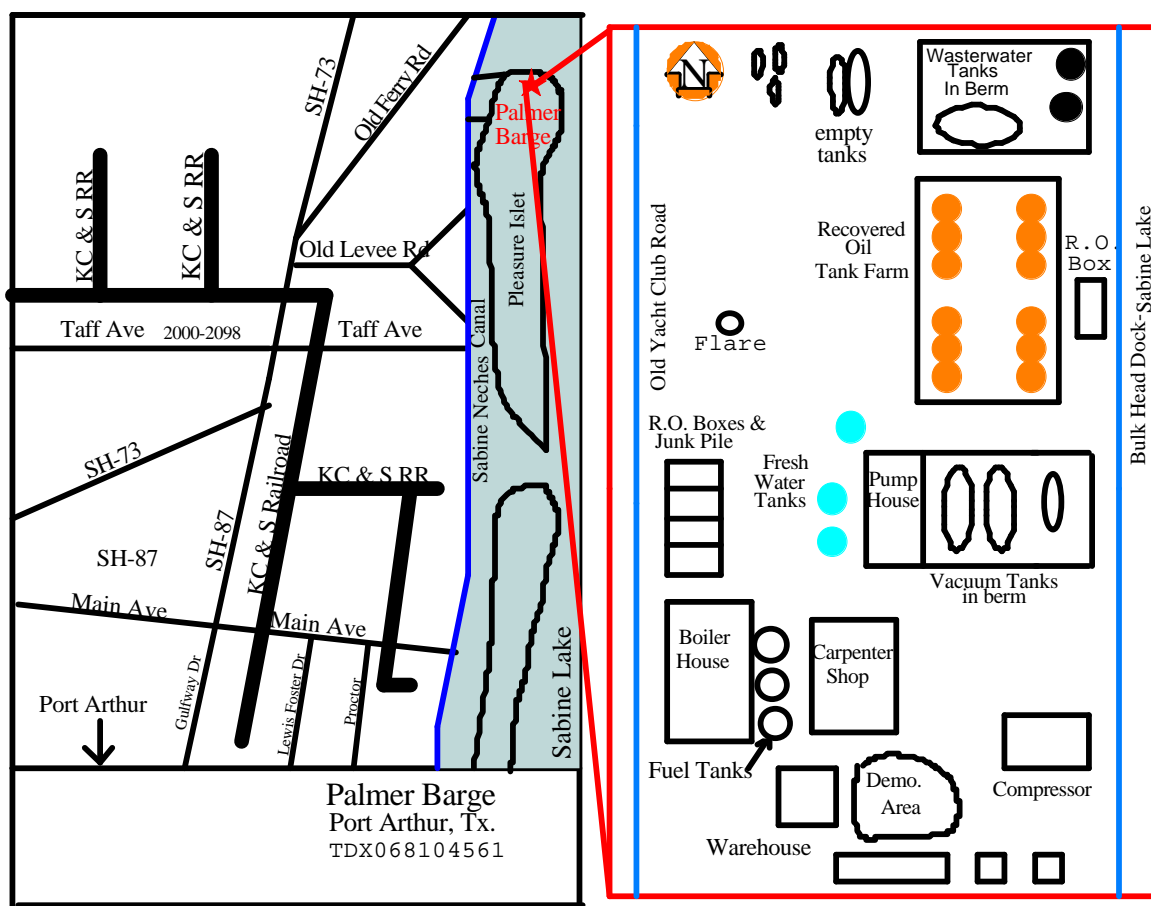
NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: May 11, 2000

NPL Inclusion Final Date: July 27, 2000

NPL Deletion Proposal Date: n/a

NPL Deletion Final Date: n/a

## SITE MAP



## SITE HISTORY

In 1982 John Palmer acquired 17 acres from the City of Port Arthur comprising what is now the site, to begin his barge cleaning business. The primary operations at Palmer Barge included cleaning, degassing, maintenance and inspection of barges and other marine equipment. Typical

cleaning operations included the removal of sludge, liquid (heals) and all other residual material by pressure steaming the vessel holds. Degassing activities involved the removal of explosive vapors from the barge holds using nitrogen or boiler exhaust.

In 1983 Banker Phares, a trustee of Jefferson County placed a lien on the Palmer Barge Line, Inc. property. In October 1994, Wrangler Capital assumed all claims from Palmer Barge Line, Inc. In July 1997 Wrangler Capital purchased Palmer Barge Line, Inc. from receivership and the company ceased operations as a barge and marine vessel service and maintenance company.

## **ENFORCEMENT HISTORY** \_\_\_\_\_

Fall 2001: Notice letters for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) issued to identified Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's).

Spring 2002: Negotiations with PRP's taking place to conduct RI/FS

Fall 2002: Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) is signed by PRP's to conduct the RI/FS.

## **PRESENT STATUS AND ISSUES** \_\_\_\_\_

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study planned to begin February 2003

## **HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

Human Health and Ecological Screening Risk Assessments will be completed as part of the RI/FS.

## **RECORD OF DECISION** \_\_\_\_\_

A Record of Decision (ROD) has not been signed for the Palmer Barge Line Superfund Site.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

The EPA will seek community involvement throughout the remedial process by conducting Open Houses and Public Meetings. A Community Relations Plan will also be developed and put into place.

Site Repository: Port Arthur Public Library  
4615 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Port Arthur, TX 77642

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

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A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is for a local citizen's group to secure the services of a technical advisor to increase citizen understanding of information that will be developed about the site during the Superfund process. By law, only one grant for up to \$50,000 may be awarded for this site. To be eligible for a TAG, the group must incorporate itself. Also the group must meet a 20% matching requirement which may be in cash or donated services. If you are interested in applying for a TAG please contact Ms. Beverly Negri at (214) 665-8157, or toll free at 1-800-533-3508.

Letters of Intent Received: n/a

Final Application Received: n/a

Grant Award: n/a

## **SITE CONTACTS**

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EPA Remedial Project Manager: William Rhotenberry 214-665-8372 or 214-924-0258

EPA Site Attorney: Joseph Compton 214-665-8506

EPA Community InvolvementBeverly Negri 214-665-8157 or 1-800-533-3508

TNRCC Texas State Contact: Luda Voskov 512-239-6368

EPA Region 6 Ombudsman Arnold Ondarza 303-312-6777

## **REALIZED CLEANUP BENEFITS**

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Remedial efforts will help mitigate environmental problems caused by past operations at the site, as well as protect human health and the environment for any future uses of the site.